

Beaufort Conservation News

Annual Report

July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023



Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is a governmental subdivision of the state. Annual and long-range programs of conservation and development within the District's boundaries are developed and carried out with the assistance of local, state, and federal agencies.

2023



STATE POSTER WINNER

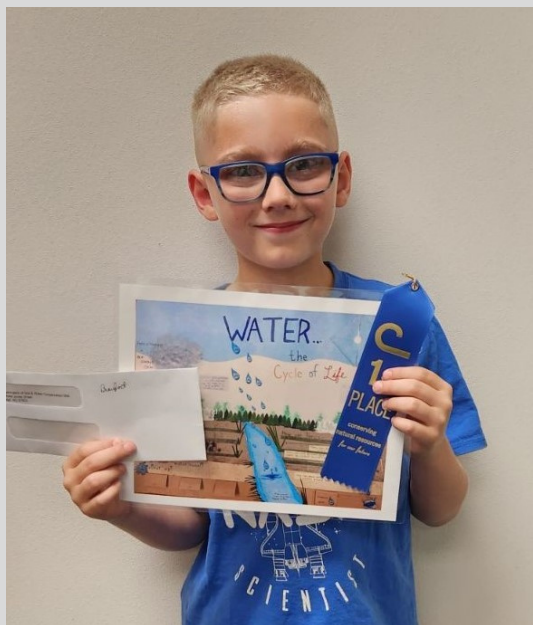
MICHAEL CRIDER

1ST PLACE DISTRICT, AREA 5, AND STATE

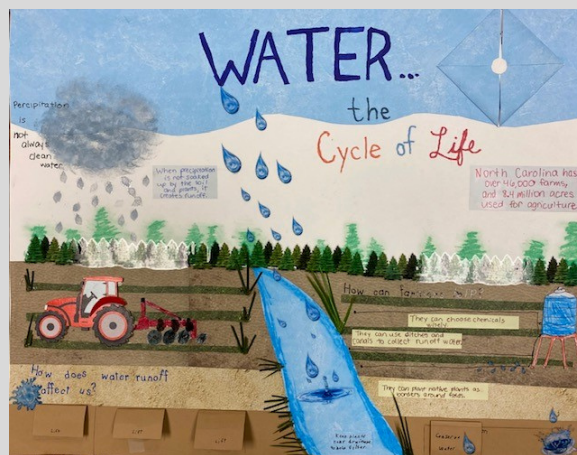
4TH GRADE

PUNGO CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

TEACHER: SUSAN KNOX



Water...the Cycle of Life



SUPERVISOR AND STAFF UPDATE

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District Staff and Supervisors attend in person and online virtual training sessions as offered.



Conservation Employee Training

The annual Conservation Employee Training Conference was held in Cherokee, NC during the week of August 15-18, 2022. Nathaniel Woolard, District Resource Conservation Technician, and Debbie Boyd, Education Coordinator, attended the training.



During the 2022 Area 5 Fall Meeting, Ann Williams, Resource Conservation Office Manager with Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District, was presented her 20-year length of service award by Chris Hughes, President of North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (NCASWCD).



During the December 2022 meeting of the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District, James Allen and Archie Griffin, (left) re-elected Board Members, and Wayne Black, (right) re-appointed Board Member are sworn in by Marty Paramore, Beaufort County Clerk of Superior Court.



Kyle Gentry started in Beaufort County December 2022 as Supervisory Soil Conservationist over the 10 counties in Team 14.

Kyle previously worked in Pender County as a Resource Conservationist and before that was in North Central Kansas as a Soil Conservationist. Prior to starting work with NRCS in Kansas he worked a total of 4 years at Person and Durham Soil & Water Districts here in NC.

His duties include conservation planning, technical assistance, contracting, certifying, managing NRCS programs, supervisory duties, and various other field work for the 10-county team.

Kyle graduated from Virginia Tech in 2015 with a degree in Environmental Resource Management and prior to college grew up in Roxboro, NC.



KYLE GENTRY
TEAM 14
SUPERVISORY SOIL
CONSERVATIONIST



SUPERVISOR AND STAFF UPDATE



2022 NCASWCD AREA 5 FALL MEETING

The Area 5 Fall Meeting was held on November 10, 2022 at Moratoc Park in Williamston, NC and was hosted by the Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Chairman Richard Cannon (Martin SWCD) called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone attending. Roll Call was taken by Vice-Chairman Steve Harris (Pasquotank SWCD), and the Treasurer's Report was given by Maurice Berry, Jr. (Pasquotank SWCD).

Standing Committee and Partnership Reports were then given.

Guest speakers were Matt Safford, StRAP Manager at NCD&ES Division of Soil and Water Conservation, Kristina Fischer, Area 6 Regional Coordinator at NCD&ES Division of Soil and Water Conservation, and Evan Davis, Director of the Farmland Preservation Division at the NCD&ES.

Attending the meeting from the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District were Supervisors James Allen, Tracy Warren, Sid Cayton, and Wayne Black, Office Manager, Ann Williams, and Education Coordinator, Debbie Boyd. Other partnering agency personnel attending from Beaufort County were Anthony Hester, NRCS, and Rodney Woolard, Farmland Preservation.

2023 ANNUAL MEETING

The 79th Annual NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' meeting was held at the Cherokee Convention Center in Cherokee, NC on January 8-10, 2023. This year's theme was From the Mountains to the Sea... "Preserving our Natural Resources."

Beaufort County Supervisor, Tracy Warren, was reappointed Assistant Chaplain for the NC Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts during the meeting.

Attending the meeting from the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District were Supervisors James Allen, Tracy Warren, and Wayne Black. Other partnering agency personnel attending from Beaufort County were Kyle Gentry, NRCS, and Rodney Woolard, Farmland Preservation.



2023 NCASWCD

AREA 5 SPRING MEETING



The Area 5 Spring Meeting was held on February 16, 2023 at Camp Cale, in Hertford, NC and was hosted by the Martin County Soil and Water Conservation District.

Attending the meeting from the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District were Supervisors James Allen, Tracy Warren, and Wayne Black. Other partnering agency personnel attending from Beaufort County were Kyle Gentry and Anthony Hester, NRCS, and Rodney Woolard, Farmland Preservation.

ANNUAL PROGRAM NEWS



AGRICULTURE COST SHARE PROGRAM (ACSP)

The District has participated in the ACSP since 1987. It has been, and continues to be, a superb means of helping farmers and owners of agricultural land apply conservation measures to assist in protecting our waterways and the environment.

For Program Year 2023, the District was allocated a total of \$68,415 from the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission. Cover Crop applications were taken until the September 19, 2022, Board of Supervisors meeting where two cover crop applications and contracts were approved.

Applications for all other practices were accepted until the January 23, 2023, Board of Supervisors Meeting. During the meeting, three applications were approved for practices, including Residue and Tillage Management, Land Smoothing, and Lagoon Biosolids Removal. The Residue and Tillage Management contract was approved at the February 27, 2023, District Board of Supervisors meeting. The Land Smoothing and Lagoon Biosolids Removal contracts were approved at the May 15, 2023 District Board of Supervisors Meeting.



AGRICULTURAL WATER RESOURCES ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (AgWRAP)

Mandated in 2011, AgWRAP was established to assist farmers and landowners in increasing water use efficiency and availability on agricultural land and to conserve and protect water resources using best management practices.

For Program Year 2023, the District was allocated \$19,965 by the NC Soil and Water Conservation Commission. At the January 23, 2023 Board of Supervisors Meeting, three applications for Water Supply Wells were approved. One contract was approved at the February 27, 2023, Board of Supervisors Meeting, one approved at the March 20, 2023 Board of Supervisors Meeting, and the third one was approved at the June 20, 2023, Board of Supervisors Meeting.



BEAUFORT COUNTY BEAVER BOUNTY PROGRAM

Established in 2004, the county's Beaver Bounty Program reimburses registered landowners \$10 per beaver tail for beavers trapped on their property. There was no activity in this program during Fiscal Year 2022-2023. Since the program's establishment, 76 landowners and 24 trappers have registered for participation in the program. A total of \$6,250 has been paid to landowners for 625 beaver tails.

ANNUAL PROGRAM NEWS

2020 WATERSHED RESTORATION PROJECT

Phase III of the 2020 Watershed Restoration Project began in October of 2022. Phase III was completed in June of 2023. A total of 81,500 linear feet of streams and creeks in Beaufort County were cleared during Phase III.

STREAMFLOW REHABILITATION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (StRAP)

Phase 1 of the StRAP program began in December of 2022. Phase 1 was completed in February of 2023. A total of 22,329 linear feet of streams and creeks in Beaufort County were cleared during Phase 1 of the StRAP program.



ANNUAL EDUCATION NEWS



2022 BEAUFORT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT ANNUAL DAN WINDLEY ENVIRONMENTAL FIELD DAYS AT GOOSE CREEK STATE PARK

Over 600 fifth grade students, teachers, and chaperones, from Beaufort County, attended the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District's 14th Annual Dan Windley Environmental Field Days. The educational event was held at Goose Creek State Park November 7-9, 2022.

On each school's assigned day, attendees were divided into groups to rotate at fifteen-minute intervals throughout six stations. Stations included Aquatics, Soils, Wetlands, Forestry, Conservation, and Wildlife and were instructed by representatives from various agencies who specialize in the topics covered. Presenters were from Goose Creek State Park, NC Estuarium, Beaufort County Cooperative Extension, Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District, as well as retired volunteers who specialize in their fields. The District appreciates the assistance of all those involved in the learning stations and thanks Goose Creek State Park for co-sponsoring the event.

Environmental Field Days was started 35 years ago by Mr. Dan Windley from the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District. Mr. Windley passed away in September 2006. To honor his family for their continued dedication to this yearly event, the name of the event was changed to the Annual Dan Windley Environmental Field Days in 2008.



The Windley-May families



**2022 Capitol Christmas Tree
Ornament Project**

The Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District participated in the 2022 Capitol Christmas Tree Ornament Project by sending in wood slice ornaments with artwork and an essay from past Beaufort County STATE winners in the Poster and Essay Contests.

The Christmas tree for the US Capitol came from North Carolina this year and there was a need for 6,000 ornaments to decorate the tree. Ornaments highlighting conservation, natural resources, and soil and water history were sent by participating Soil and Water Districts in North Carolina.

ANNUAL EDUCATION NEWS

2023 ENVIROTHON EVENTS

Training Day

The 2023 Area 5 Envirothon Training Day was held at Goose Creek State Park in Beaufort County on March 2, 2023. Area Teams rotated through five stations (Wildlife, Forestry, Soils/Land Use, Aquatics/Ecology, and Current Environmental Issues) in preparation for the Coastal Envirothon on March 14, 2023.



Coastal Envirothon

The 2023 Areas 5 and 6 Coastal Envirothon was held at Weyerhaeuser's Cool Springs Environmental Education Center in Craven County on March 14, 2023.

Beaufort County teams competing were the Young Roots, Hellbenders, and Renewable Resources from Northside High School, and the Coastal Pollutants, Trash Pandas, Tree Sparkles, and Marsh Monkeys from Northeast Middle School.

To qualify for the NC Envirothon, three-to-five-member teams had to place in the top seven positions within their grade divisions at the Coastal event. The competition is open to public and private schools, homeschooled students, 4-H groups, FFA clubs, or other youth group organizations.

Beaufort County teams qualifying for the State Envirothon were The Coastal Pollutants, Trash Pandas, Tree Sparkles, and Marsh Monkeys from Northeast Middle School and The Young Roots, Hellbenders, and Renewable Resources from Northside High School. Northeast advisor is Melanie Simmons and Northside advisor is Daphne Cullom.

Teams competed in the State Envirothon at Cedarock State Park, near Burlington, NC April 28-29, 2023.



ANNUAL EDUCATION NEWS

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District Contests

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District Announces District, Area, and State Contest Winners

“Water...the Cycle of Life” was the theme for the 2023 poster and essay contests sponsored by the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District. The poster contest was open to all students in 3rd-5th grades in the county. The essay contest was for 6th graders only. There were 66 total entries this year. Area schools submitting posters and/or essays were John Small School, Pungo Christian Academy, Northeast Middle School, and Unity Christian Academy.

The competition starts at the county level. First, second, and third place winners receive cash prizes. Teachers who have first place student winners also receive cash prizes. First place winners in the Beaufort County competition advance to Area 5, where they compete with other Soil and Water Conservation Districts in sixteen eastern NC counties. Area 5 first place winners advance to the North Carolina Division of Soil and Water Conservation State competition in Raleigh, where they compete with other first place Area entries submitted from across the state of North Carolina.

After receiving first place in the 4th grade county poster competition, Michael Crider, a student at Pungo Christian Academy, received first place and a cash prize in the Area 5 competition, and first place and a \$200 check in the state competition. Colin Crocker, a student at Unity Christian Academy, received first place and a cash prize in the Area 5 competition, and also qualified for the state competition for his essay.



CONTEST WINNERS *PICTURED WITH THEIR RIBBONS, AWARDS AND POSTER COPIES*

*Front row, left to right:
Brayden Capehart and Corbin Paul*

*Middle row, left to right:
Ryan Bradbury, Jacob Braxton,
Jimmy Moore, and Zoey Robinson*

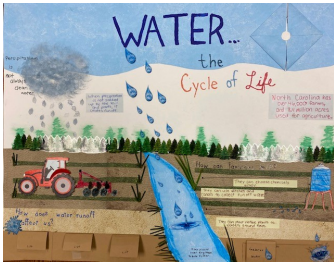
*Back row, left to right:
Teachers
Angie Kolibabek (Unity Christian)
and Susan Knox (Pungo Christian)*

*Not pictured:
Michael Crider, Eric Coward,
and Colin Crocker*

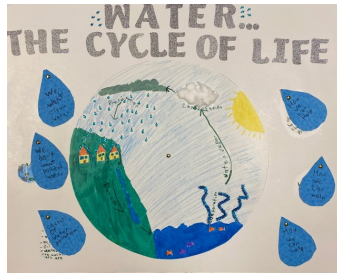
Water...the Cycle of Life

ANNUAL EDUCATION NEWS

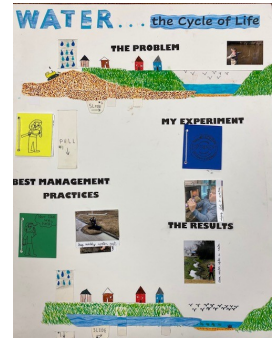
4th Grade Poster Contest Winners



1st Place
Michael Crider

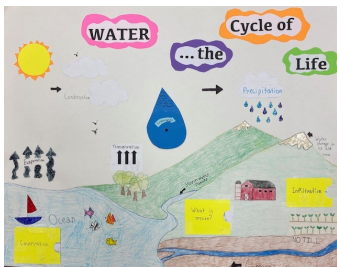


2nd Place
Corbin Paul

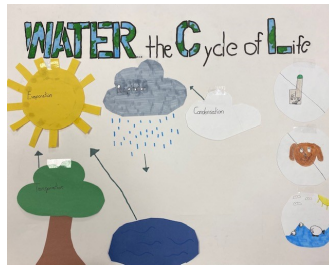


3rd Place
Brayden Capehart

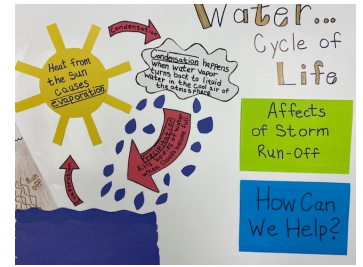
5th Grade Poster Contest Winners



1st Place
Ryan Bradbury



2nd Place
Zoey Robinson



3rd Place
Eric Coward

6th Grade Essay Contest Winners

1st Place
Colin Crocker

2nd Place
Jacob Braxton

3rd Place
Jimmy Moore

Stewardship Week

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) celebrated the 68th year of Stewardship Week April 30–May 7, 2023. The 2023 Stewardship Week was themed “One Water.”

During the year, the Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District promotes stewardship through our various education programs. “One Water” placemats were distributed during Stewardship Week.

The Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District is a member of the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) which oversees the Stewardship Week program. Stewardship Week is one of the largest national annual programs to promote conservation.



Board meetings are open to the public and are held the 3rd Monday of each month, except July and August, at 5:30 p.m. in the office of the:

Beaufort Soil and Water Conservation District
Beaufort County Agricultural Center
155 Airport Road
Washington, NC 27889



James Allen
(Board Chairman)



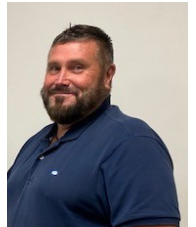
Tracy Warren
(Board Vice Chairman)



Sid Cayton
(Board Supervisor)



Archie Griffin
(Board Secretary)



Wayne Black
(Board Supervisor)



District Staff

Ann Williams
Resource Conservation Office Manager

Nathaniel Woolard
District Resource Conservation Technician

Debbie Boyd
Education Coordinator

USDA-NRCS

Kyle Gentry
Team 14
Supervisory Soil Conservationist

Anthony Hester
Soil Conservationist

Soil and Water...Yours for Life

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Bus: (252) 946-0169
Fax: (252) 946-6040
Mobile: (252) 945-9378
Email: jaywickham@ncfbins.com



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